Manufacture of Paraxylene by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

638. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 69 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the final investment decision has since been taken by Government on the application of Bharat Petroleum Corporation for the manufacture of Paraxylene ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's policy to create capacity in public sector and private sector in such highly profitable ventures and what is the present position of such projects in private sector or public sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Consequent upon a review of the economic viability of the project by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., it was found that it is not economically viable and hence the proposal has been dropped.

(c) As per the existing Government policy, petrochemicals are not reserved for manufacture in public sector, and industrial licensing of the petrochemicals is considered on techno-economic merits. The current licenseed capacity of paraxylene is as follows :

1. Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. . .	17,000 TPA
2. Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	29,000 TPA
3. Reliance Industries Ltd.	67,000 TPA

IPCL's capacity is being expanded from 17,000 TPA to 35,000 TPA of Paraxylene.

Letters of intent have also been granted to Madras Refineries Ltd. and J. K. Synthetics Ltd., for setting up of Paraxylene capacity for captive consumption for the manufacture of PTA at Madras and UP respectively.

Prices of Paraxylene

639. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that due to very high price charged by manufacturers of Paraxylene, price of the end product to silk and synthetic powerloom weavers has tremendously increased ;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted to fix the cost of Paraxylene and whether all the private sector companies have supplied the figure regarding its cost to the BICP; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to import paraxylene on OGL to help handloom and powerloom weavers and what steps are being taken to apply public sector costings for charging to the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The price of paraxylene would be one

of the factors affecting and product prices of polyester fibre/yarn.

(b) BICP and Cost Accounts Branch have carried out Cost Study of PX, DMT & PTA covering both, Private and Public Sector Companies.

(c) As per present import policy, paraxylene is canalised item. IPCL, a public sector company is canalising agency.

Malpractices in supplying gas Cylinders

640. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN :
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Gas Cylinderon main herapheri" which appeared at page 4 of the Navbharat Times, New Delhi of the 8th January, 1990 ;

(b) if so, what action Government proposes to take to check the malpractices being committed by the deliverymen in supplying gas cylinders to the customers in the capital ;

(c) whether Government also propose to proide weighing machines to the deliverymen in order to give full satisfaction to the customers at the time of the delivery of cylinders ;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) All LPG-filled cylinders are checked for correctness of weight and sealed at the bottling plants before despatch to distributors. The LPG distributors are under strict instructions to ensure correct weight of LPG refill cylinders before making delivery to the consumers. Surprise check are carried out by the field offices of the oil companies to check malpractices. Complaints about under-weight cylinders are investigated promptly by the oil marketing companies and, if established, such cylinders are replaced free of cost. Action against erring distributors is also taken under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. It is not considered necessary and practical to provide weighing machines to all deliverymen of all the distributors.

Import of Baralgon Ester

641. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHSHI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICLAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the composition of Baralgon Ketone based formulations being marketed at present ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Baralgon Ester has been dropped from the composition ;

(c) if so, when and with whose permission ;

(d) whether the company got the revised composition endorsed ontheir Industrial Licence ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the company was importing Baralgon Ester at a faboulous price from their principals ;